

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for reviewing the present application.

A total of 14 claims remain in the present application. The foregoing amendments are presented in response to the Office Action mailed July 21, 2008, wherefore reconsideration of this application is requested.

By way of the above-noted amendments, independent claims. Claims 16, 21 and 26 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 10, which has been cancelled to avoid redundancy. Claim 14 has been amended to correct the claim dependency, and claim 18 amended to correct grammatical errors identified therein.

Clearly no new subject matter has been introduced by way of the above-noted amendments.

Referring now to the text of the Office Action:

- Claims 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as lacking support in the original specification;
- claim 18 stands objected to;
- claims 16-18 and 22-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the teaching of United States Patent No. 6,992,978 (Humblet et al) in view of United States Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0179472 (Khalilzadeh et al.); and
- claims 10 and 14-15 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims..

As an initial matter, Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 10 and 14-15. The above noted objections and claim rejections are

believed to be traversed by the above-noted amendments, and further in view of the following discussion.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

It is believed that the rejection of claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is traversed by way of the above noted amendment of claim 16. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Independent claims 16, 21 and 26 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 10. Because claim 10 has been indicated as containing patentable subject matter, claims 16, 21 and 26 are now believed to contain patentable subject matter.

Thus it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, and early action in that respect is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 21, 2008

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